

# **Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter July 2011**

## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

### **New Parish Councillor**

Following the local elections on 5th May, 8 of the previous members of the Parish Council were elected unopposed. This leaves one vacancy. Serving on the Parish Council is an enjoyable way of contributing to the community. Anyone who would like to know more about it and might consider joining should call Tony McCann on 423230.

### **Village Hall Committee**

The Village Hall, which is an independent charity, is run by a committee whose members are also trustees of the charity. Some of the members have now served for a very long time and the committee feels that it badly needs some new blood. It is, of course, very important that the Village Hall is properly managed and maintained since it is central to so many village activities. Anyone interested in knowing more should contact Janet George on 463767.

### **Bathampton Morris Men**

Despite their name, the connection with Bathampton these days is virtually non-existent. However, they are a very busy all male side which has been performing in this area since 1934. They are always seeking new members and would be pleased to hear from anyone in Bathampton who would like to learn about Morris Dancing and perhaps join up. Anyone interested should contact John Sturgess on 867031.

### **Bathampton Flower Show**

Once again, the Bathampton Gardeners' Association will be putting on their splendid Flower Show on Saturday 10th September. Make sure the date is in your diary and better still, enter one of the many competition classes. For details call Ken Jefferies on 460800.

### **Park & Ride east of Bath**

The new Lib-Dem administration at B&NES is reconsidering the Bath Transportation Package which currently includes the Park & Ride on Bathampton Meadows. We believe that some members of the new administration are strongly opposed to using the Meadows and this gives us some cause for hope. Nothing, however, will be certain until 9th September by which date B&NES must make their final submission to the Department for Transport detailing the revised package and its costs.

**Tony McCann**

## **Leisure & Amenities**

**Mike Richards**

### **Jubilee Garden**

The overgrown and dangerous corner by the hut has been fenced off by Alan Saunders until responsibility of tenure is established before repairs can take place. We await the result of a visit by a British Waterways representative and a search of their records for this to be found. Interestingly it is understood that the hut in the wall was where dockets were issued for the passing of narrow boats with their cargoes along this section. The broken fencing by the embankment is to be replaced by the George as this was found to be their area to be maintained.

Thankfully the recently planted tree appears to have taken root and the open area has recently seen a lot of use.

### **Allotments**

Many plots are showing signs of great industry as the weeds attempt to take over the variety of crops and flowers that are well formed. Surprisingly a few plots are not as cultivated as they should be and in some cases weeds have taken over and upsetting neighbouring plots. Tenants have been advised of the situation. In the meantime additional names have been added to the waiting list.

### **Playground and playingfield**

Contractors are attending to the field and have been asked to cut back the embankment area, which is now overgrown. The results of a couple of surveys to make good some of the repairs to the playground are still in abeyance as are ideas for the future.

### **Other areas**

BaNES have attended to pavement repairs on Hantone Hill though there are still some gardens where shrubs are reducing the width available for pedestrians to pass.

Thanks go to Ron Taylor, who after thirteen years of planting and tending to the various flower displays around the village, has called it a day. As no group in the village has volunteered to take this on, three residents have come forward to look after individual containers, but one planter remains to be adopted. Looking into this further, there are other locations where a display of flowers would brighten up our village. This could be achieved by some community minded volunteers especially as the Parish covers the expense of the flowers, and time is the only consideration.

The Bus Shelter question has now taken another direction as a further suggestion regarding the location by the shops has been received.

## **Planning and Conservation Report**

**Lin King and Susanne Wing**

### **Triangular Field**

The appeal against refusal of planning permission was dismissed and BANES have now made permanent the **Tree Preservation Orders** on 15 trees.

However we have been 'warned' that more applications may be submitted.

### **Raft Café**

You may have noticed that some decking has been put down and is being used by the Raft Café. They are also hiring out boats, and an 'A' board has appeared. This is in contravention

of the planning permission that was granted, and the enforcement officers were alerted. Now British Waterways and the barge owner are submitting another application to cover the extra permission required.

### **Vodafone Mast**

We are also expecting a revised application for siting of the Vodafone mast.

### **Telecomms 'cabinets'**

Two applications have been received for the updating of these cabinets along High Street.

As ever, there have also been various applications for extensions and tree works, and for decking. Any of these applications and our comments, along with others' comments, can be seen on the B&NES Planning website by following the link at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES>

## **Highways Group**

**Sue Christley, Kate Jones and Keith Rossiter**

### **Safe Route to School**

B&NES has confirmed its intention to carry out changes to road markings at the Canal Bridge. These should take place during August. Plans indicate:-

- The creation of a pseudo footpath on the southern (non-pavement) side of the Canal Bridge. Protected at either end by bollards.
- Alteration to road markings on either side of the Bridge to improve driver awareness.
- Renewal of five anti-skid points - in Mill Lane (2), Church Close (1), Tynning Road (1) and High Street (1).

### **Bathampton Lane**

Also during August, B&NES will install a new 'NO LEFT TURN' tarmac marking - in 1.6M high letters - at the top of Bathampton Lane.

There have been a number of dangerous incidents when vehicles have ignored or not seen the existing 'no left turn' sign.

### **Parking Restrictions – Holcombe Lane/Holcombe Close Crossroads**

B&NES has recently made changes to parking restriction 'white lines' in Holcombe Lane and Holcombe Close.

- Two parking bays adjacent to the Health Centre have been marked as 'DISABLED' bays.
- Diagonal parking bays have been marked in front of St. Nicholas Court.
- White lines have been extended at the Holcombe Lane/Holcombe Close crossroads (outside the Health Centre). If respected, these white lines will improve safety for drivers and pedestrians by keeping this area clear of parked cars. Drivers are reminded that it is an offence – at any time and regardless of road markings - to park and obstruct a 'mobility ramp'.

## Village News and Events

Please let Jan Helps know if you would like anything included in this section

### Bathampton Flower Show

The Annual Flower Show has been arranged for **Saturday 10th September 2011**.

The Show is open to residents and non-residents. Schedules are available from the village shop or contact our Membership Secretary, Derek Hull (460914) and includes rules of the show as well as a couple of entry forms.

Exhibits can be viewed in the marquee and village hall on the day after 2.00pm. Homemade refreshments will be available.

We would also like volunteers to help with setting up and taking down the Show. Please contact Derek if you can help.

### Calling all Bathampton footpath users!

Did you know that Bathampton Parish has over 16km of footpaths and bridleways? There are 36 individual paths covering almost every part of our beautiful village - including an extensive network of paths on Bathampton Down and the golf course.

For many years, Bathampton Footpaths Association has fought to maintain these public rights of way. Unfortunately they took the decision to disband in May which means the Parish Council now has sole responsibility for liaising with B&NES and landowners to ensure that our public footpaths are regularly cleared and maintained.

We are looking for volunteers to help monitor the footpaths for problems such as fallen trees and other obstructions, and occasionally get together to clear some of the less well used paths.

Do you use a particular path on a regular basis? Would you be prepared to report any issues that require attention? Maybe on occasions you could spare some time to help us keep the footpaths pleasant and accessible for everyone. If you use any of the footpaths regularly - or you think this is the perfect excuse to get out there - then please contact **Cllr David Mayo (466875 / [council@davidmayo.co.uk](mailto:council@davidmayo.co.uk))**.

**If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact Tony McCann or any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.**

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Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in **“What’s on in Bathampton”**